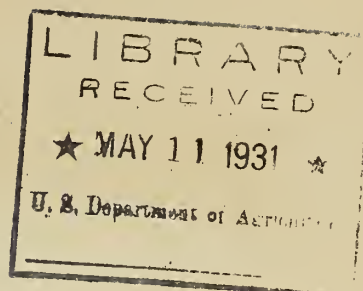


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HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR

A radio talk by Mrs. Rowena Schmidt Carpenter, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered through WRC and 40 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, April 23, 1931.

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With hot weather so close upon us we are thinking about how to make our home cool-looking and comfortable on summer days. We are somewhat tired of our tapestry, or mohair upholstery in the living room. Besides these materials have a rough, wooly surface that feels warm, and the dark colors keep reminding us of wintry days. Although very few of us can have two sets of furnishings -- one for winter and one for summer -- many of us can have slip covers for hot weather.

The living room takes on an entirely different appearance when you make slip covers for upholstered furniture. Removable coverings add variety and help to develop an entirely new decorative scheme. They also protect the furniture from dust and the strong sunlight which is always brighter in summer than in winter.

Fabrics and colors that suggest coolness are the best choice for summer furniture covers. Chintz, Belgian linen, Jaspe cloth, percale, gingham, and poplin all have a smooth finish and come in a variety of plain colors and in many attractive combinations. Besides looking crisp and refreshing they are closely woven and will keep dust from sifting through the material to the upholstery. Cretonne may be used in some climates, but it is better for an all-year-round covering than it is for extremely hot weather, because it has a rather coarse weave and rough surface.

Slip covers are by no means confined to upholstered chairs in the living room. They are equally desirable in bedrooms. If the chair in your bedroom is similar in shape to the ones in your living room you may use the same kind of cover on both. But if the chair is a straight one like those in the dining room instead of overstuffed or upholstered, small pads of gay material for the seat and back will be more attractive than a slip for the entire chair.

These pads are so quickly and easily made that I am going to tell you how to do them. Cut 2 or 3 layers of cotton batting to fit the chair seat, and cover them with cheesecloth. Stitch across the pad twice each way and then around the outside edge. This holds the cotton in place and keeps it from knotting when the pad is washed.

The outer covering is merely a slip that you may make from almost any washable material. Cut two pieces of cloth about 1/2 to 3/4 inch larger on all sides than the padding. Stitch these together on three sides, press the seam

Over

open, turn the slip, insert the pad, and then close the fourth side. Attach the finished pads to the chair with twilled tape or narrow straps of the material. They may tie around the chair post, or be just long enough to fit around it and snap to the pad.

For a less tailored pad on the bedroom chairs, or the bench at the dressing table, you may finish the edge with a narrow pleated or gathered ruffle that drops over the edge of the seat. Colored cording in the seams makes an interesting variation and helps to develop the color scheme in the room. The seam cording may match one of the colors in the print. If a plain material is used for the slip cover, the seam may be finished in a contrasting color.

Dining rooms and breakfast nooks seem cooler and more inviting also when we put light-colored slips on the chairs. Slip covers in these rooms are practical as well as decorative. They preserve the wood finish which is apt to become dull after we have stuck to it a few times.

There are many kinds of slip covers that are suitable for these straight chairs. The ones that are made in two pieces usually look better and are more easily fitted than those that are in one piece.

Small pads like the ones I have just described for bedroom chairs make most attractive summer dresses for the chairs in your dining room or breakfast nook.

If you are planning to make slip covers for your furniture this summer, I am sure you will want one of the Bureau's new leaflets called "Slip Covers", which will be ready in the near future. It describes the many uses of removable coverings, and how to select materials for them. In addition, it gives directions for taking measurements and estimating the amount of material required for different styles, and explains the steps in making these covers. Just write to the U. S. Department of Agriculture or to your station for the new leaflet on Slip Covers, and we will list your name to receive a copy as soon as it comes from the press.
